

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An Arterivirus having at least some of its original arteriviral nucleic acid encoding ORF-7 deleted.
2. (Original) A replicon according to claim 1 capable of *in vivo* RNA replication.
3. (Currently amended) A replicon according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, further comprising a nucleic acid derived from at least one heterologous micro-organism.
4. (Currently amended) A replicon according to claim 1, ~~anyone of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein said replicon comprises an RNA transcript of an infectious ~~copy~~ cDNA.
5. (Currently amended) A replicon according to claim 1, wherein said replicon comprises anyone of claims 1 to 4 at least equipped with a functional kissing loop interaction essential for said replication.
6. (Currently amended) A replicon according to claim 1, wherein said arteriviral nucleic acid encoding ORF-7 produces anyone of claims 1 to 5 encoding a C-terminally truncated ORF-7 polypeptide.
7. (Original) A replicon according to claim 6 wherein said truncation does not effect the production of viable virus.
8. (Currently amended) A replicon according to claim ~~anyone of claims 1-7~~ wherein said Arterivirus comprises a porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV).

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Preliminary Amendment**

9. (Original) A replicon according to claim 8 comprising a nucleic acid modification leading to an at most 6 amino acid truncation of ORF-7.
10. (Original) A replicon according to claim 8 comprising a nucleic acid modification of a 34-nucleotided stretch of ORF-7 from position 14653-14686 and a nucleic acid modification of the 3'-UTR from position 14996-15034.
11. (Currently amended) A replicon according to claim 3, ~~anyone of claims 3-10~~ wherein said heterologous micro-organism comprises a pathogen.
12. (Original) A replicon according to claim 11 wherein said pathogen is a virus.
13. (Currently amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ a replicon according to ~~anyone of claims 1-12 for~~ of claim 2 to obtaining a vaccine.

Claims 14 and 15 (Canceled)

16. (New) A vaccine comprising:  
an Arterivirus nucleic acid, wherein said Arterivirus nucleic acid comprises a functional kissing loop interaction.
17. (New) The vaccine of claim 15, further comprising a deletion in an ORF-7 polypeptide.
18. (New) A method of vaccinating an animal, the method comprising:  
administering a vaccine according to claim 15 to an animal.
19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the animal is a swine.